

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10-33 are pending; Claims 1, 7, and 10-12 are amended; Claims 3-5 and 9 are cancelled; and no claims are newly added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7-9 were objected to; Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yoshida (U.S. Pat. No. 5,333,560); Claims 7-12 were indicated as allowable; and Claims 13-33 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 13-33 are allowed and that Claims 7-12 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 9.

Because Claim 1, from which Claims 2, 7, 8, and 10-12 depend, has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter and Claims 3-5 have been canceled, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-5 has been rendered moot by the present amendment. Additionally, as Claims 7 and 8 depend from Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 7 and 8 be withdrawn. Claim 9 has been canceled, thereby rendering that objection moot.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance for Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10-33 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/776,251
Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2005

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he or she is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

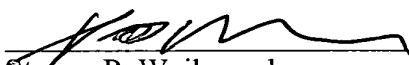
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Katherine D. Pauley
Registration No. 50,607

SPW/KDP/law

I:\ATTY\KDP\24'S\248210US\248210US AM 5-13-05.DOC